

**To:** Clark, Becki[Clark.Beki@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bussard, David  
**Sent:** Thur 1/30/2014 10:26:43 PM  
**Subject:** re: formaldehyde and West Virginia

Becki,

We may get inquiries about the formaldehyde IRIS assessment (and thanks for earlier email heads up).

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative**

# **Ex. 5 - Deliberative**

The IRIS assessment task is focused on a chronic RfC and a cancer inhalation unit risk, and it may be that neither of those would be particularly relevant to this scenario.

Any idea if someone in the Region or EPA is considering the exposure issues re formaldehyde?

David

**From:** Deener, Kathleen  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:16 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Debra; Flowers, Lynn; Cogliano, Vincent; Perovich, Gina; Bussard, David; Ross, Mary  
**Cc:** Vandenberg, John  
**Subject:** FW: fyi re: formaldehyde

Just talked with Liz Blackburn. OCIR says that Senator Rockefeller's staff may want to have a call with us to talk about formaldehyde. See the statement at the very bottom of the email chain. We think they may want to talk about that, but we're not sure. May also want to talk about formaldehyde health effects or the IRIS assessment. We're trying to get more information about what specifically they might ask.

**From:** Blackburn, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:09 PM  
**To:** Gomez, Laura  
**Cc:** Piantanida, David; Deener, Kathleen  
**Subject:** RE: fyi re: formaldehyde

Laura

Just tried to call you.

What does the Senator's staff want to ask? We're still checking with our staff but it would be most helpful to understand that.

Thanks

Liz Blackburn

Science Communications Director

USEPA Office of Research and Development

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**From:** Gomez, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:00 PM

**To:** Blackburn, Elizabeth  
**Cc:** Piantanida, David; Deener, Kathleen  
**Subject:** FW: fyi re: formaldehyde

**From:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:56 PM  
**To:** Gomez, Laura  
**Subject:** fyi re: formaldehyde

Fyi, this is what is triggering the inquiry

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*Carolyn Levine*

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*U.S. EPA*

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*levine.carolyn@epa.gov*

**From:** Miller, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:53 PM  
**To:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Subject:** FW: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

Linda Miller

EPA Region III

Office of State and Congressional Relations

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

215 814 2068

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**From:** Ferrell, Mark

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:33 PM

**To:** Capacasa, Jon; Pomponio, John; Wisniewski, Patti-Kay; Melvin, Karen; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Arguto, William; Burns, Francis; Nelson, Mark; Snyder, Raquel; Miller, Linda; White, Terri-A; Heron, Donna

**Subject:** Fw: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

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**From:** Adler, Allison C <[Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov](mailto:Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:17:47 PM

**Subject:** Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

**Statement from Dr. Letitia Tierney, Commissioner for the State Bureau for Public Health  
and State Health Officer**

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – Scott Simonton’s presentation to the West Virginia Joint Legislative Committee today is totally unfounded and does not speak to the health and safety of West Virginians.

Subject matter experts who have been assisting West Virginia through this entire emergency response state that the only way possible for formaldehyde to come from MCHM is if it were combusted at 500°F.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states formaldehyde is the most frequent aldehyde found in nature and is naturally measurable in air and water. Formaldehyde is created through the normal breakdown cycle of plants and animals. Formaldehyde dissolves easily in water and does

not last a long time in water.

Additionally, formaldehyde is naturally produced in very small amounts in our bodies as a part of our normal, everyday metabolism and causes no harm. It can also be found in the air that we breathe at home and at work, in the food we eat, and in some products that we put on our skin.

Formaldehyde is found in many products used every day around the house such as antiseptics, medicines, cosmetics, dish-washing liquids, fabric softeners, shoe-care agents, carpet cleaners, glues and adhesives, lacquers, paper, plastics, and some types of wood products.

We are unaware of the specifics of how this study was conducted, including sampling procedures, protocol and methodology, and would also be interested in the possibility of some other issue affecting the testing of water at the establishment indicated.

Everyone has been affected by this water crisis and public health is of the utmost importance.

Mr. Simonton has not been part of the integral team of water testing officials from numerous state, local and private agencies working non-stop since January 9. His opinion is personal but speaks in no official capacity.

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Allison C. Adler

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